

NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
318 South Sixth Street
Springfield, IL 62701
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON
U.S. ATTORNEY
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



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Contact: Gregory K. Harris
Assistant U.S. Attorney
(217) 492-4450

Former Springfield Stockbroker, Insurance Agent Charged with Defrauding Clients of \$1.7 Million

Springfield, IL- The United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, Rodger A. Heaton, announced that a federal grand jury has charged Daniel G. Petrilli, age 58, of 60 Providence Lane, Springfield, Illinois, with defrauding clients of his business, Estate Management Services Inc., of approximately \$1.7 million dollars. The indictment alleges that Petrilli used the business to provide services as an insurance agent, stockbroker and financial advisor.

From October 1993 until December 2004, the indictment alleges Petrilli persuaded seven clients, including a 79-year-old client and an elderly widow, to entrust their money to him by falsely promising that he would invest it for them when in fact he had no intention of investing their money and instead spent the clients' money on himself and others. Petrilli allegedly represented to clients that they would earn a better return on their money by investing with him that they would earn on their own existing investment. As a result, several clients allegedly sold their existing investments, incurring sales and surrender fees, to entrust their money to Petrilli.

The indictment alleges Petrilli deposited clients' money to an account he controlled and converted it to his own use, spending it on such things as operation of a Springfield tavern, cash gifts to his wife and girlfriend and other friends. At times, the indictment alleges Petrilli used money from one client to pay another to create a false appearance that he had invested the first client's money and the investment was producing income. The estimated loss to victims as a result of the fraud scheme is more than \$1,372,590.

The charges are the result of an investigation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service and the Illinois Secretary of State Securities Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory K. Harris.

If convicted, the offense of mail fraud carries a maximum statutory penalty of 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. A summons will be issued for Petrilli to appear in federal court in Springfield at a date to be determined by the U.S. Clerk of the Court.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendant is presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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